THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Under the newsprint policy which came into effect from 1st May 1995, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is no longer allocating newsprint to newspapers. During the year 1999- 2000, RNI issued eligibility certificates for importing newsprint to 13 Urdu newspapers. The eligibility certificate does not specify the quantity of newsprint.

(b) Does not arise.

Publication and circulation of newspapers.

1495. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newspapers/periodicals published in 1999 language-wise; and

(b) the circulation of each of the newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A large number of newspapers/ periodicals do not file the Annual Statements with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI). The RNI does not have complete records of the number of newspapers published in the year 1999 or their circulation figures.

CBI raids

1496. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI recently raided the offices and residences of officials of Prasar Bharati and private television firms in connection with the probe into the alleged bungling in allotment of television rights of cricket matches since 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the officials whose offices have been raided; and

(c) the details of incriminating documents seized as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) CBI has informed that nationwide raids were conducted on 13.11.2000.

(b) A statement is annnexed. (*See* below)

(c) CBI has informed that during the raids certain incriminating documents/articles were seized by them and are presently under scrutiny and investigation.

Statement

On 08/11/2000, CBI, AC-III Zone registered five cases (No. RC 1(A) to 5(A)/2000/ACU-VIII) against certain Doordarshan officials and private parties in connection with the alleged irregularities on the part of Doordarshan officials in awarding the telecast/marketing rights of some top sports events. These events were the French Open Tennis 1997, Wimbledon Tennis 1997, Independence Cup Cricket 1997, ICC Knowckout Cricket 1998 and World Cup Cricket 1999.

On 13/11/2000, CBI conducted nation wide searches in cases RC 2(A), 3(A) and 4(A)/2000/ACU-VIII. These searches were conducted on search warrants issued by the court of Spl. Judge for CBI cases, Delhi and at some places u/s 165 Cr.P.C. The following are the places/premises which were searched on 13/11/2000:—

1. Office of Mr. K.S. Sarma, IAS, the then Director General, Doordarshan, now Additional Secretary, Ministry of HRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Residence of Mr. K.S. Sharma—103. D-1, Satya Marg, New Delhi.
3. Residence of Mr. Rakesh Bahadur. IAS, the then Dy. Director General. Doordarshan-D-II/ 71, Pandara Road, New Delhi.
4. Permanent Residence of Mr. Rakesh Bahadur—Inder Bhawan-2, Chitwapur, Station Road, Lucknow.
5. Office of Mr. K. Kunhikrishnan, Dy.DG, Doordarshan, Mandi House, New Delhi.
6. Residence of Mr. K Kunhikrishnan—P-I/1. MS Flats, Sector-XIII. RK Puram, New Delhi.
7. Office of Dr. P.K. Seth, Dy. DG, Doordarshan, Mandi House, New Delhi.

8. Residence of Dr. P.K. Seth-D-II/82, Kidwai Nagar (West), New Delhi.

9. Office of Mr. Sanjiv Datta, the then Director (Fin.), Doordarshan, now Director, FCRA Wing, MHA. Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi.

10. Residence of Mr. Sanjiv Datta—329, Laxmibai Nagar, New Delhi.

11. Office of Mr. Anurag Mishra, the then Controller(Sales), now JD (News), All India Radio, Parliament Street, New Delhi.

12. Residence of Mr. Anurag Mishra—B-11/8004, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

13. Office of M/s World Tel Sports India Ltd.(M/s World Tel Inc., USA)-Bell View Building, Ist Floor, Opp,-Nishant Regency, 159 Defence Colony, 4th Main, 6th Cross, Indira Nagar, Bangalore-38.

14. Residence of Mr. Mark Mascarenhas, President, M/s World Tel Inc. USA, & Chairman, M/s World Tel Sports India Ltd.-338, First Main, Cambridge Road Layout, Bangalore-560 008.

15. Residence of M/s. Jeanne Marie Varghese, Director. M/s WorldTel-301, 245. Defence Colony, Eden Hall, Indira Nagar, Bangalore.

16. Office of M/s Stracon India Pvt. Ltd.-Block E. 3rd Floor, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi.

17. Residence of Mr. Siddhartha Ray, Director, M/s Stracon--5/15, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029.

18. Office of Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya, President. International Cricket Council-32. Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta.

19. Residence of Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya-10, Alipore Road, Calcutta.

20. Office of M/s United Television(UTV)-5, Community Centre, Panchsheel, New Delhi.

21. Regd. Office of M/s United Television(UTV)-Unilazer House, No. 7, Marwah Estate. Off Saki Vihar Road, Saki Naka, Andheri(East), Mumbai-400 072.

22. Residence of Shri Rohinton Screwvala, Director, M/s UTV-31. Landmark Building, ML Dhanukar Marg, Mumbai.

In addition to the above, CBI searched nine bank lockers belonging to S/Shri K.S. Sarma, Rakesh Bahadur. K. Kunhikrishnan. Dr. P.K. Seth, Anurag Mishra, Mrs. Marie Mascarenhas and Siddhartha Ray mentioned above.

Broadcasting of "Marathi' Newspaper from regional centres of Mumbai

†1497. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has taken a decision to broadcast Marathi newspaper from the regional Centres of Mumbai which was being broadcast from the Delhi Centres of All India Radio for the last 50 years;

(b) whether such a step would not bring down the importance of the regional languages;

(c) whether the National and regional balance is not likely to be disturbed due to such act; and

(d) the necessity of initiating such a step now when the news in regional language are being broadcast already from the local (regional) Centres at present?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that for bringing about improvement in the quality of news bulletins by introducing composite news programmes and to provide manpower in regional centres for operationalising 24-hour FM Radio News Channel, it had decided to shift 8 Indian language units stationed at Delhi, including that of Marathi, to the respective State capitals. However, the matter is being reconsidered after representations were received against the decision.

Publication of English Newspapers from Delhi

1498. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) which are the major newspapers published in English from Delhi; and

(b) what are the names and other details of the owners of these newspapers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.